

"Refraction and How to Refract" by James Thorington, Philadelphia; P. Blackistons Son & Co.; price \$1.50 net, has just appeared in its third edition. He is to be commended for the concise manner in which he has presented this complex subject without sacrificing many details so necessary for its proper understanding. He has appealed to the reader's common sense, to understand the laws of refraction, rather than to his knowledge of mathematics. This edition has been brought up to date by the addition of new illustrations and the description and method of use of some optical devices, notably the De Zeng luminous ophthalmoscope and retinoscope. I am glad to note that Dr. Thorington adheres to the older model of the Hardy Ophthalmometer. It is in many respects a superior instrument to the more recent productions. Though we are led to believe, by careless workers or those not authorized to use drugs in the eye, that cycloplegics are not necessary for accurate refractive work, it is pleasing to note the stress Dr. Thorington places upon this matter. Concise, comprehensive and interesting is the chapter on retinoscopy. This work is to be highly recommended to students of ophthalmology, and especially to beginners. L. C. D.

Clinical Treatises on the Pathology and Therapy of Disorders of Metabolism and Nutrition, by Dr. Carl von Noorden, Frankfurt, a. M. New York, E. B. Treat & Co. Part I, **Obesity** and Part II, **Nephritis**, have been received. These monographs are sold for 50c each. The subject is certainly one that is exceedingly timely; disordered metabolism is attracting, and deservedly, the careful attention of pathologist and clinician. Dr. Boardman Reed is the responsible translator, and he says very truly: "Such disorders constitute the bane of our modern civilization. They have been in some measure also a reproach to the science and art of medicine since until very recently they have not been studied with a thoroughness commensurate with their importance." The form of publication is convenient and the monographs are not weighted down with a mass of superfluous quotation; they are direct and to the point and should be of value in one's everyday work.

Arsenic in Papers and Fabrics, by J. K. Haywood. Bulletin No. 86, Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture. This monograph gives a general discussion of the question, which is followed by a report of thirteen cases of poisoning by arsenic wall papers and fabrics. Analysis of a large number of samples has been made and the results here compiled. Some wall papers contained as much as .108 and .131 grains of arsenic per square yard. A number of miscellaneous cloths contained arsenic in dangerous amounts, and twelve out of forty samples of stockings contained an amount in excess of the Massachusetts limit. One specimen of fur was found to contain as much as 16.99 grains per square yard! A summary of the various laws relating to the subject is appended.

An Account of the Tapeworms of the Genus Hy-menolepis Parasitic in Man, including Reports of several new cases of the Dwarf Tapeworm (*H. nana*) in the United States. By. Brayton H. Ransom. Bulletin No. 18, Hygienic Laboratory, P. H. and M. H. Service. The Service is doing an excellent and a very valuable work in publishing monographs of this very high order. The two essays here noted are prepared with the greatest care and the very necessary illustrations are done, one is tempted to say, sumptuously. Works of this character are absolutely essential to the student, yet from their very nature are not commercial propositions to the ordinary publisher.

International Clinics; Fourteenth Series, Volume III. J. B. Lippincott Company; price \$2.00 net. The present volume contains twelve papers on Syphilis, three on general treatment, four on general medicine, four on surgery, three on gynecology and one on

neurology. It also contains twenty-six plates, one of them in colors and all but two of them illustrative of the essays on Syphilis. It will therefore be evident that the present series of monographs should be particularly valuable to those who are specially interested in syphilis, though the other material offered is up to the high standard of the "Clinics."

Intra-Uterine Medication, by Charles Woodward, Chicago, Ill. Published by Woodward Publishing Company, Chicago. This work impresses one as being a delineation of the peculiar fads of the author, rather than any scientific exposition of the subject. His views of gynecologic pathology are far from being clear. The logic of his deductions fails to carry conviction. W.

The following reprints have been received from Dr. John T. Moore, Galveston, Texas: Strongyloides Intestinalis in Texas, with report of a case; Past Operative Malaria, with a report of two cases; The Occurrence of Tenia Nana in Texas; (the first, or at least the second reported case in North America.)

A Discussion of the Vital Statistics of the Twelfth Census. Bulletin No. 15. The bulletin contains, amongst other things, the population, deaths and death rate of all the principal cities from 1890 to 1900, inclusive.

New Methods of Treatment, by Dr. Laumonier; translated by Dr. H. W. Syers; published by W. T. Keener & Co., Chicago. Price \$2.50 net. (Will be reviewed subsequently.)

Illustrated Key to the Trematode Parasites of Man, by Ch. Wardell Stiles. Bulletin No. 17, Hygiene Laboratory, P. H. and M. H. Service.

The British Medical Journal for October 29th contains some very interesting papers on the prostate gland.

CHANGE IN TWENTY YEARS.

I want to call your attention to a phase of the drug business which very materially affects the profits. It is one which has been entirely overlooked in searching for reasons why there are not the same profits as formerly. In looking over a file of some twenty years ago the discovery is made that where twenty consecutive prescriptions, selected at random, costing the druggist \$2.29, and selling for \$8.65, gave him a profit of 277 per cent, or \$6.36, twenty similar prescriptions of to-day bring a profit only of 182 per cent. The ingredients of the prescriptions of the present time cost \$4.69, and are sold for \$13.25, a profit of \$8.56.

Now, someone may say that there is no argument, since on twenty prescriptions a score of years ago there was a profit of \$6.36, and on twenty ordinary prescriptions of to-day there is a profit of \$8.56, nevertheless on a prescription that formerly cost \$1.00, a profit of 277 per cent was realized, while to-day on the same investment but 182 per cent profit is made, a net loss in profit on a dollar investment of 95 per cent.

Right here let me suggest that this was in the face of the fact that he had endeavored to obtain an average profit of 200 per cent. Had he, like most druggists, charged per quantity or figured on a basis of 100 per cent profit, then his receipts would have been \$9.38; his profits \$4.69, or a net profit of \$1.67 less than two decades ago.

It must also be remembered, as every experienced druggist will admit, that at the present time doctors are writing more frequently for coal tar products and proprietary articles. In the twenty prescriptions selected from the file of twenty years ago, only one coal tar product was specified; but in the twenty prescriptions selected from files of the present time five expensive coal tar products and six proprietary articles are called for.—N. A. R. D. Notes.